

## **KLAMATH RIVER BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE MEETING**

*February 19-20, 2003  
Best Western Beachfront Inn  
Brookings, Oregon*

### **FINAL MINUTES**

Task Force membership and members present:

#### **Membership:**

California Commercial Salmon Fishing Industry  
California Department of Fish and Game  
California In-River Sport Fishing Community  
Del Norte County  
Hoopa Valley Tribe  
Humboldt County  
Karuk Tribe  
Klamath County  
Klamath Tribes  
National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Siskiyou County  
Trinity County  
US Department of Agriculture  
US Department of the Interior  
Yurok Tribe

#### **Represented by:**

Dave Bitts  
Neil Manji  
Vacant  
Chuck Blackburn  
Mike Orcutt (alternate)  
Jill Geist  
Scott Quinn (alternate) (Vice chair)  
Steve West  
Allen Foreman  
Irma Lagomarsino (alternate)  
Keith Wilkinson  
Jim DePree (alternate)  
Absent  
Robbie van de Water (alternate)  
John Engbring (Chair)  
Dave Hillemeier

**February 19, 2003**

#### **Agendum 1. Convene and opening remarks**

John Engbring opened the meeting, introduced special visitors (SueEllen Wooldridge, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC) and welcomed a new Task Force representative (Jill Geist). He also announced that Vice Chair for Task Force would be Scott Quinn, Karuk Tribe. Scott Quinn remarked that he was honored to represent the Karuk Tribe and serve as Vice Chair. Other announcements included Mike Long as newly appointed Field Supervisor of the Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office and Curt Mullis as Field Supervisor of the Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Office.

#### **Agendum 2. Business**

##### **a. Adoption of agenda**

It was decided to cancel Agendum 21, move discussion of Agendum 18 to the end of the meeting, and combine discussion of Agendum 15 with Agendum 6. Also, Sara Borok, California Department of Fish and Game, would give the Agendum 14 presentation instead of Neil Manji.

**Motion by Keith Wilkinson to adopt the amended agenda.**

**Seconded by Jim DePree.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Status of appointment letters and Charter**

The terms of all members and the Charter are due to expire October 2003. Requests for new appointment letters will be sent out.

**Assignment: Requests for new appointment letters will be sent out to all members. Letters will state that those sitting will continue until replaced, as stated in the Charter.**

The Charter (see handout Agendum 2) must be renewed to continue meeting. Some minor changes were agreed during discussions on the next day (February 20, 2003). The operating costs will be increased, and more explanation will be added on what the funds are buying, as requested by Steve West.

**Motion by Keith Wilkinson to approve the amendments to the Charter.**

**Seconded by Dave Bitts.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Agendum 3. Introductions of Congressional staff in attendance**

No Congressional staff members were in attendance.

**Agendum 4. Brief review of last meeting actions/general correspondence/program update**

Laurie Simons reviewed last meetings motions and assignments, letters that were sent out, and the Unspent and Incomplete Projects table (see handouts for Agendum 4). The status of a newsletter project was also discussed.

Mike Orcutt said he had requested changes to letter of December 27, 2002, but they were not accepted because the intent of the letter was established at the previous meeting, which Mike Orcutt did not attend (see handout Agenda 4). He raised the issue that adaptive management on the Trinity River is not actually in practice yet, and was concerned about using the Trinity River to address the Klamath River flow issue.

**Agendum 5. Brief Updates and Announcements**

**a. Update on State recovery process**

Neil Manji reviewed the background of the Listing of Coho Salmon in California (see handout for Agendum 5a). The California Department of Fish and Game has delayed listing for one year while working on a recovery plan that will be prepared for review by August 2003. There was discussion regarding who has input to the review process, the nature of the meetings, and how decision-making would occur. Neil Manji said that decision making would be consensus driven, but with ability to overrule by super majority. There was also some discussion about the membership of the recovery teams. There is a statewide team and a team covering just the Scott and Shasta to cover agricultural land and water use.

**b. Update on NOAA recovery planning**

Irma Lagomarsino said that there was not very much recent activity to report at this time. A Recovery Team will prepare a recovery plan for Oregon Coast Coho. The team has added new members and meetings have started.

There was discussion about the linking of Federal and State processes. Both pros and cons were expressed about linking these two recovery processes.

**c. Status of green sturgeon and Pacific lamprey petitions**

Irma Lagomarsino reported that, two weeks ago, the NOAA Fisheries published a notice in the Federal Register that green sturgeon was not warranted for listing in response to a petition. The decision not to list was based on available, but limited, information. Monitoring of the species will be conducted over the next five years. Dave Hillemeier said that the Eel River separates the 2 Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of the green sturgeon on the West Coast and that a 60 day notice of intent to sue was filed on the decision to not list.

Phil Detrich reported that, on January 23, 2003, Fish and Wildlife received petitions to list four species of lamprey (western brook, Pacific lamprey, and the river lamprey may occur in the Klamath basin). The Fish And Wildlife Service Oregon State office is working on this.

**Agendum 6. Updates on anadromous fishery restoration efforts (Also discussed was Item 15: Report on the California Department of Fish and Game project selection process and how it relates to the Task Force process**

Helen Birss (California Department of Fish and Game) described the State's restoration programs (see handout for Agendum 15). The program includes more than \$100 million of funding, 2,000 projects, 600+ partners, and 2,589 coastal streams. Funds are from State Propositions and NOAA Fisheries. Last year 204 projects were funded, 40 were in the Klamath Basin. There will be \$22 million for projects in 2003. She described this year's RFP to be released in early March, with proposals due in early May.

There was discussion about a desire for coordination with the Technical Work Group and whether the Technical Work Group might provide input to State reviews. In response to questions, Helen Birss described some of the California Department of Fish and Game efforts toward monitoring the effectiveness of restoration projects. She also commented on the progress on development of descriptive databases. Neil Manji offered to have California Department of Fish and Game present to Task Force about their monitoring progress.

More discussions occurred about increasing the interaction between the State and the Technical Work Group. There was a desire to have the Technical Work Group have input on California Department of Fish and Game decisions to fund proposals in the Klamath Basin.

**Assignment: Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office will draft a letter from Task Force to the Director of California Department of Fish and Game proposing a process whereby Technical Work Group would review State restoration proposals. Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office will send the draft to Helen Birss and Neil Manji for review.**

Robbie van de Water summarized restoration projects being undertaken by the Klamath National Forest in 2002. These projects focused on fish passage restoration, road restoration to reduce sediment runoff, forest fuels reduction, and mine work. She thanked their Partners and Tribes for their in-kind Contribution. Scott Quinn summarized restoration efforts of the Karuk Tribe. He described their road rehabilitation work in the Wooley Creek Watershed. They are doing road assessment in the East Ishi Pishi Watershed and fish passage assessment in the upper middle Klamath River.

There was discussion of the value of a website containing a master list of all restoration projects. One comment was that Klamath Resource Information System (KRIS) database could be modified to do this. It

was pointed out that the subject of databases and projects would also be discussed during the Technical Work Group presentation (Agendum 22) of this meeting.

#### **Agendum 7. Progress of Klamath Basin Federal Working Group**

Sue Ellen Wooldridge, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C, office gave a report on the status of the President's Klamath Basin Federal Working Group. The Working Group is composed of the secretaries of Departments of Commerce, Interior, Agriculture, and also includes the Director of the Council on Environmental Quality. A subgroup supports the Working Group. Ms. Wooldridge serves as U.S. Department of the Interior representative on the subgroup. The task of the Working Group is to advise the President about what can be done regarding water quality and water quantity in the Klamath Basin. The Working Group is to pay special regards to ecosystem restoration, maintenance of viable economies, and tribal trust responsibilities. The Working Group is to report to President within 18 months (September 2003). One intent of the Working Group is to discourage the various federal agencies acting as separate entities and to help coordinate action. The Working Group would not necessarily provide a leadership role, but to help ongoing efforts. Another objective is to avoid unnecessary overlap of agencies and coordinate collective restoration efforts.

Extensive questions and discussion followed. The main issues raised by the Task Force members included concerns about the content of the expected report, whether the report would address issues in the entire basin, the date of the report release, and the opportunity for input and coordination during the preparation of the report. Regarding the Task Force comments, Ms. Wooldridge was able to clarify that the contents and answers in the report are not yet developed, but some sort of report would be delivered to the President by September of this year. She was unable to make any promises to allow specific groups to have direct input to the contents; however, Ms. Wooldridge acknowledged the need to be extensive in coverage of the entire basin and not to just focus on the upper basin. As examples, she specifically agreed about the stated need to consider the Trinity flows, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing, and other concerns in the lower sub-basins. She did not think that specifics such as flow recommendations or comments on legal appeals would be included.

#### **Agendum 8. Public Comments**

These public comments focused entirely on Sue Ellen Wooldridge's presentation (Agendum 7).

Ronnie Pierce (representing herself) asked about the schedule of release of the NRC report. Ms. Wooldridge replied by saying hopefully in March.

Glen Spain (Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Association representative) said that there are problems with the slow release of the report. A large fish kill is likely again this year and there was a spring fish kill last year in addition to the fall fish kill. He asked about the likelihood of new consultations. Ms. Wooldridge replied that Bureau of Reclamation will base this year's operation on the current biological opinion. Re-consultations will occur but these will not effect this year's flow operations. Glen Spain followed up by saying flow studies were identified 6 years ago by the Task Force as the most important to pursue, yet there have been funding problems for it. Also, we need to get the water bank up and running right away, and the Hardy 2 report is vitally important.

Mike Belchik (Yurok Tribe) asked a question regarding Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the PacifiCorp project, if Department of the Interior was in direct negotiations for the settlement with PacifiCorp, and about the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission process fitting in with the Working Group's plans. Ms. Wooldridge answered that we need to consider Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Issues.

Rich McIntyre (American Lands Conservancy and Upper Klamath Basin Working Group) asked if the Federal Working Group is opposed to Federal acquisition of private lands. Ms. Wooldridge answered nothing is off the table.

Ray Williams (representing the Klamath River) stated that long ago at a meeting, it was said the Trinity was not considered a tributary (to the Klamath River). He asked if the Trinity is now considered a tributary. Ms. Wooldridge replied, yes, logically it seems to be a tributary.

Ron Reed (Karuk Tribal fishery representative) said that Tribal fishing rights are important to protect. He stated that the Federal Mediation process had generated a lot of solutions, where are they? Ms. Wooldridge answered by saying that a lot of energy has been put into meetings and discussion; and we all want solutions. However, integration seems to be lacking, we need more agreement on the solutions.

Ron Reed followed up by saying that the problems still exist; solutions have not really been put forth. He asked about the protection of Tribal fishing rights. Also, there is no gain to the Tribe if Klamath Basin farmers go bankrupt. The Tribe has serious pain: loss of a million acres of land, 112 original villages. Now only one fishing hole, only a handful of fisherman left to hand down tribal traditions of thousands of years. When you see me, you may only think of fishing rights, but I represent our people, our traditions, and our culture. Ms. Wooldridge said she doesn't just think of fishing rights when she sees Ron Reed, but a man committed to the culture of his people. She said he has a big heart.

Felice Pace (Klamath Forest Alliance) said that the Federal Working Group is considered to be lead agency in the Klamath now, and asked whether the Administration is willing to work with the delegations, including Congressman Thompson, to craft legislation for a solution? Ms. Wooldridge replied by saying yes, but there are budget issues. A \$4 billion solution, as proposed in the GS report, is prohibitive.

Elwood Miller (Klamath Tribe) asked about an inclusion of other issues than just endangered species, in the Reclamation Water Plan. The Tribes are concerned with wetlands, wildlife, and trout fisheries, for example, and have not seen these issues addressed in the water plan. Ms. Wooldridge said the Tribal Trust responsibility rests with the entire government not just Reclamation. Reclamation operations planning will incorporate Tribal trust issues.

Tim MacKay (North Coast Environmental Center) said that the progress on the Trinity River and the settlement moves at a glacial speed. Ms. Wooldridge said we are trying to speed things up.

Peter Brucker (Salmon River Restoration Council and Technical Work Group Chair) said the Task Force has worked on limiting factors over the years and has been promoting development of local, sub-basin plans in the Lower Basin and similar plans are being developed in the Upper basin. There currently is a lack of recognition for the spring Chinook salmon. Spring Chinook was the strongest run historically, but because it is not considered genetically different enough from fall Chinook, its sharp declines have not received special attention. We are now working with a committee to develop what needs to be done for Spring Chinook. Peter Brucker asked about what can be done to prevent another fish kill this year. Ms. Wooldridge asked it back to Peter Brucker what he thought. Peter Brucker answered that we need to plan for another dry year, consider flows, and re-open the Biological Opinion.

Jim Carpenter (Klamath Basin Coordination Group) said that a need really exists to maintain coordination, but we have been largely unsuccessful. Polarization seems to drive wedges between upper and lower basin interests. At the Klamath Basin Symposium, the need for Federal guidance was identified. Jim Carpenter asked if the Working Group could help.

Mike Rode (California Department Of Fish And Game) said a crisis is again developing regarding low flows. Currently the releases at Iron Gate Dam are 780 cfs and are 1/3 of the recommendations from the Hardy report. It looks likely there will be a fish kill of juveniles. Ms. Wooldridge said that the Bureau of Reclamation uses the current Biological Opinion and their own determinations about flow to meet the ESA. The Hardy report is still draft.

**Agendum 9. Presentation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Program Strategic Vision**

Mary Ellen Mueller (California/Nevada Office, Fish and Wildlife Service) presented a visual presentation on the new Fisheries Program Strategic Vision and how it was developed (see three handouts for Agendum 9). She mentioned that the President's management agenda requires that continued funding of this program is dependent on performance of federal programs. The presentation also stressed the need for outreach for renewed and stronger relationships with other cooperating partners (States, Tribes, other governments, and private efforts). The goal is to develop a future of healthy aquatic systems through work with partners. The Fish and Wildlife Service is now asking for comments that address the questions in Agendum 9 handout. We will use these comments to develop more detailed step-down plans on a regional basis. Please provide comments to Laurie Simons.

**Agendum 10. Report from Klamath Watershed Coordination Group**

**a. Klamath Basin Compact Commission**

Alice Kilham reported that a five-year report is just being completed. She stated that more outreach and coordination is needed to help reduce the extreme views between the upper and lower basin. She expressed interest in any input about what the Compact should be doing, particularly with regard to communication. When asked about what was the status of help from the CEQ, she reported that not much help resulted. It seemed that the CEQ could not develop a plan; it has to be done locally.

**b. Upper Klamath Basin Working Group**

Jim Carpenter reported that a document titled "A plan for a plan" has been prepared. The Working Group has been pursuing grants from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The Working Group has secured 75 % of funding for a watershed assessment (\$300K). Since there are thirty-five field watersheds in the upper basin and each should individually be addressed, there will be an enormous effort. He stated a need for more coordination. A website for the Klamath Basin Working Group exists, but needs more work. He said the roles of the coordination Group is to educate all on what all the groups are doing.

**c. Trinity Management Council**

Mike Orcutt provided the background and the history of the management group set up for the Trinity River. He described recent funding and current plans. He also reviewed legal decisions and upcoming rulings regarding the Trinity River. Efforts are being made to secure greater flows to the Trinity.

**Assignment: Neil Manji and Dave Hillemeier were appointed to serve as Task Force representatives on the Klamath Basin Coordination Group. Other interested parties may also serve.**

**Agendum 11. Discussion of potential joint meeting with Trinity Management Council**

During the discussion, it seemed that everyone was in favor of a joint meeting. The main issue was one of scheduling. Issues to be discussed in such a meeting may include joint funding.

**Agendum 12. Barnes Ranch Water Storage Project/Upper Klamath Lake**

Rich McIntyre (American Land Conservancy and Klamath Upper Basin Working Group) presented information on the opportunity to purchase the Barnes Ranch. He was seeking a letter of support from the Task Force. He described how 53,000 acre-feet of water could be stored for beneficial uses by combining Barnes Ranch and Agency Lake Ranch. Cost of acquisition of the 3,000 acre Barnes property is \$9.1 million. This project should be able to provide water at \$3.42 per acre-foot when amortized over 50 years.

Lengthy discussion ensued. Part of the discussion continued during the next day. In summary, Task Force questions were whether or not the Task Force should consider the cost as a factor. Also they discussed whether the Task Force should address specific issues before submitting a letter of support. These issues included effects of the project on water quality or whether any water may be conserved in dry years. Also questions were raised about one condition of the property purchase that required an exchange property be available to the sellers.

In response to discussion and questions, Rich McIntyre had the following comments: A long-term option on the property does not exist and a letter with conditions from the Task Force would be helpful at this time. The exchange property has been identified and the purpose is mostly to avoid capital gain taxes for the sellers. He further stressed the need for immediate action.

**Motion by Keith Wilkinson to draft letter to Secretary of Interior supporting the Barnes Project with language mentioning the need to avoid adverse effects to water quality and to promote habitat restoration. This letter will be reviewed by Task Force members.**

**Seconded by Dave Bitts.**

**Motion Passed unanimously.**

**Public Comments:**

Wendell Wood (ONRC) asked about the project's ability to contribute to better water quality. How the project is managed will determine its effect on water quality.

Mike Rode said he supports this project, but asked about project ability to help in critically dry years. Mr. McIntyre replied that it is uncertain.

Dan Keppen (Klamath Valley Water Users) said that the proposal looks good. But there is a need to compare this project to other potential storage projects. He views the project favorably, but it has to be managed appropriately.

Joe Hobbs (Vice chairman of Klamath Tribes) said that he grew up in the project area and knows it well. The project could provide good benefits, especially to sucker habitat.

Dave Sabo (Bureau of Reclamation) sees this project as clearly beneficial for increasing water quantity. I don't know the effects on water quality. The \$9 million would have to come from a special appropriation.

Jeff Mitchell (Klamath Inter-tribal Fish and Water Commission) said that he supports this project as part of a larger effort to secure more water storage. No single project will do all that is needed.

Felice Pace (Klamath Forest Alliance) said that the project needs specific language about preserving water quality. It can be beneficial, if managed correctly.

Dave Sabo said that it may take a while to perform assessments to answer all the questions. The Barnes Ranch would provide beneficial water during low or dry years. He stressed the gain in sucker habitat, did not have information of the costs; he is more concerned about the gains.

Felice Pace said that allowing the lake to backfill during the flooding sounds better as this would protect water quality. This plan contrasts with the Agency Lake Ranch that was flooded by pumping. The Agency Lake project did have water quality problems. He suggests such management conditions be written into the plan. He supports the project.

### **Agendum 13. Results of investigations on the 2002 salmon mortality event**

George Guillen (Fish And Wildlife Service) presented the chronology of the events in the 2002 fish mortality event on the Klamath River (see two handouts for Agendum 13). He also gave a visual presentation on how the estimates of fish mortality in 2002 were generated (surveys, expansion methods, what data were recorded during the surveys). Conservatively, it was estimated 32,553 fish died on September 24, 2002; over 90% were Chinook, 94% adults, and 22% hatchery fish. Approximately 329 coho died, 95% of hatchery origin. Mortality appeared to be related to parasitic infections (*Columnaris* and *Ich*), but causative factors not presented. A causative factors report is being prepared. Surveys for this work were a cooperative effort of California Department of Fish and Game, Yurok and Hoopa Tribes, and Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### **Public Comments:**

Mike Belchik (Yurok Tribe) said that a general lack of additional species dying (beside Chinook) is significant--for example small shad seemed to be unaffected.

Mike Rode said that the fish were very crowded at the time of, or just before, the kill.

Ron Reed (Karuk Tribe) said that the actual fish mortality numbers do not reflect other negative effects such as decreased spawning or decreased desire to fish because of fish health issues.

Jim DePree (Siskiyou County) asked about the fish kill response teams learning anything. George Guillen replied that there was a debriefing afterwards. There will be some refinements to upcoming surveys as needed. A response team for juvenile kills had been set up, but it had already been dismantled at the time that the adult kill occurred.

Nat Pennington (Salmon River Restoration Council) asked about ways to predict such mortality events.

George Guillen replied by saying Systems Impact Assessment Model (SIAM) or other models could predict when dissolved oxygen or temperature kills, but pathogens are not modeled.

Tim McKay (North Coast Environmental Center) said that the Rogue River has had mortality events and asked about the extent of such kills. George Guillen replied by saying that it is uncertain about how widespread such events are.

Chris Malvray asked George Guillen to comment on water quality in general. George Guillen replied by saying that we are still in the stages of putting together a causative factors report in the next couple of weeks.

Dan Keppen (Klamath Valley Water Users) asked about day-by-day temperature data. George Guillen said there is day-to-day temperature data.



Chuck Blackburn said that high temperatures have been common in the Klamath and it may be difficult to assess a cause of the kill.

Dave Hillemeier said that most conditions of the river were about normal except that flows over Iron Gate were low (particularly with respect to the numbers of fish in the river). It seems reasonable that the mortality was associated with low flows.

**Agendum 14. Status of Klamath River anadromous fisheries and population trends (this item was discussed before Agendum 13)**

Sara Borok (California Department of Fish and Game) described Chinook return survey data (see also handout for Agendum 14). Her main points were: 2002 Chinook returns to the Klamath River were 8<sup>th</sup> highest since 1978 (about 168,000 fish); harvest was lower than 25-year average (35,000 fish); natural escapement was above 25-year average (99,000 fish); 18 % of the adult return died in the mortality event (31,000 fish). Estimates for the Klamath Recovery were the result of a cooperative effort of Yurok, Hoopa, and Karuk Tribes; Fish and Wildlife Service; Americorps; Forest Service; and California Department of Fish and Game.

The Trinity River appeared more impacted by the fish die-off than the Klamath River. The Salmon River was also impacted. There was a barrier in the canyon of the Scott River, some fish could not get through the valley to spawn. The Shasta River was above average this year. The 5 year old fish were abundant and large.

**Agendum 15. Report on the California Department of Fish and Game project selection process and how it relates to the Task Force process**

This was discussed with Agendum 6.

**Agendum 16. Public Comment**

No comments.

**February 20, 2003**

**Reconvene.**

**Agendum 17. Task Force review of recommendations from Mid-term Evaluation Oversight Committee**

This item was canceled.

**Agendum 18. Discussion of Budget and suggestion from Budget Committee member (this item was discussed at the end of the meeting)**

Phil Detrich (Fish and Wildlife Service) reviewed past spending (see handouts for Agendum 18). Phil Detrich reported that there have been budget shortfalls that have been picked up by the Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office. A proposed budget for 2004 was presented for the Task Force approval.

**Motion by Steve West to accept the 2004 budget as recommended by Phil Detrich and as shown on the Budget Allocations handout.**

**Seconded by Keith Wilkinson.**

**Motion Passed unanimously.**

At the Budget Committee Meeting, Dave Bitts developed a proposal for the Task Force to develop a short list of high priority projects. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

**Assignment: Staff will include the following items for discussion at the June Task Force meeting: 1. Should the Task Force perform a similar assessment of projects as that performed in the Sacramento basin with the 1086 plan? 2. Should the Task Force look at all projects in the basin and attempt coordination?**

**Agendum 19. Planning for 2003 Klamath Project Operations and the Conservation Implementation Program (discussed before items 17 and 18)**

Dave Sabo (Bureau of Reclamation) described the task of development of the Conservation Implementation Program. The purpose of the Program was to seek recovery of suckers and salmon. Dave Sabo stressed that now the Bureau of Reclamation has an obligation to recover fish species. When questioned by Dave Hillemeier about the Bureau of Reclamation's responsibility to Tribal Trusts, he acknowledged that Tribal Trust is to be addressed by the whole Federal Government. Jim De Pree expressed concern that everyone get involved with recovery. Dave Sabo said they will encourage other parties to participate.

Dave Sabo also presented overheads about the status of water in the upper Klamath basin. One important point was that proportionally more winter precipitation has come in as rain this year when compared to previous years. As a result there now is a concern about a water shortage this summer without the normal snowmelt. It will likely be a dry or critically dry year unless we have an unforeseen weather pattern.

A motion was made by Dave Hillemeier to submit a letter to Secretary Norton, requesting that the Klamath Project be operated to provide sufficient flows in the Klamath River to support all life stages of all fish species inhabiting the Klamath River. Lengthy discussion ensued that centered on whether flows and the Klamath Project were really the cause of the fish kill and the value of such a letter. Allen Foreman suggested this was too divisive. He mentioned the losses that the Klamath Tribe has endured for 18 years, but there was a need to move beyond this. The motion was voted on and failed to pass.

Following a meeting break and a statement by Dave Bitts, that each of the last two years events were disasters, a new motion was submitted.

**Motion by Dave Bitts that the Task Force draft a letter to the Secretary of the Interior. The letter would point out the likelihood of another dry year, and that disasters occurred in each of the last two years. The Task Force would like the Secretary of Interior to prevent these disasters by implementing solutions such as increasing water storage or other measures. This letter will be reviewed by Task Force members.**

**Seconded by Steve West.**

**Motion Passed unanimously.**

#### **Agendum 20. Status of Klamath Hydropower Relicensing**

Todd Olson (PacifiCorp) gave a visual presentation about the PacifiCorp Klamath Hydroelectric Project and the process of relicensing under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. PacifiCorp operates several dams in the upper portion of the basin and generates electrical power of 150 megawatts total capacity. The entire project operates under one license, which is up for renewal. The meetings, schedules, and studies were then described. More information is available on the website: [www.pacificorp.com](http://www.pacificorp.com) (about us/power generation/hydro relicensing/ Klamath River). PacifiCorp is spending about \$0.5 million per month in studies and consultation. One ultimate goal is to have anadromous fish in the upper basin. In about a year, there will be a proposal for a very different operation. There was a call for public participation.

#### **Agendum 21. Relation between upslope land management and base flow**

This item was canceled.

#### **Agendum 22. Report from Technical Work Group**

Petey Brucker (new Chairman of Technical Work Group) described the Technical Work Group purpose as one of providing technical assistance to the Task Force. Currently, activities of the Technical Work Group include preparation of subbasin reports on limiting factors (to fish production). He also described their discussions about a database that would contain information on projects. Such a database would help with monitoring evaluations. The Shasta CRMP received a grant from Resource Advisory Committee of Siskiyou to set up a similar database. Other activities of the Technical Work Group include an accomplishments document that is being drafted and the Spring Chinook limiting factors being prepared by the Salmon Learning and Understanding Group. The Task Force needs to be aware that the California State budget crisis may affect funds for Iron Gate Hatchery. Also, Reclamation's Conservation Implementation Program asked the Flow Study Group to be a technical team to help them out until they assemble their own team. They did this. Also, the National Research Council is coming out with a technical report. Should the Technical Work Group be a part of this? Discussion followed with several assignments.

**Assignment: Staff will send a letter to the National Research Council about the Technical Work Group and their expertise in salmon issues, offering their assistance with the Klamath Basin review. This letter will be on a fast track and not subject to Task Force review.**

**Assignment: Technical Work Group will discuss mainstem issues at June Task Force meeting.**

**Assignment: Staff will send a letter to sub-basin groups that funding requests over \$25,000 for planning and coordination need to be justified in a separate proposal.**

Steve West then Suggested the Following motion, because the Jobs in the Woods Program is in danger of being cut, and he recognized the significant work being done in that program.

**Motion by Steve West to draft letter to Secretary of Interior that funding for Jobs in the Woods be inserted back into the Federal Budget for 2004.**

**Seconded by Chuck Blackburn.**

**Motion Passed unanimously.**

**Agendum 23. Public Comment**

Frank Williams (Coos Bay, OR) said it shouldn't cost millions and millions to raise salmon. We in Oregon have been able to do it much more cheaply. Government agencies appear to be a problem.

Dean McBroom (6<sup>th</sup> generation resident) said there is a need to use fisherman for guidance and as monitors. He said that finger pointing is not productive, concentrate on what works.

Felice Pace (Klamath Forest Alliance) said that a large amount of the California Department of Fish and Game funding for fisheries is going to do road work for a timber company that the county should do. Also Forest Service funding is doing this. He also said that storage of water is not enough; we also need demand reduction. This may come via new legislation with Republican co-sponsorship. Also, we need legislation that declares fish and restoration are a purpose of the various projects.

Doug Tedrick (Bureau of Indian Affairs) said that he is the point of contact for the Hardy study regarding flows in the Klamath River. Unequivocally, there has been no attempt to delay the release of the Hardy report. The main issue with the delay was the availability of funds. A transfer of funds to the Department of Justice and issuance of the contract is now being carried out. Any issue of availability of data has been resolved. The Hardy report should now be forthcoming.

**Agendum 24. Recap and summary of assignments and motions. Identify agenda to include in the next meeting. (John Engbring)**

Future meetings are in Arcata, June 18-19, 2003, and in Yreka, October 22-23, 2003.

Adjourn

**KLAMATH RIVER BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE MEETING**

***February 19-20, 2003  
Best Western Beachfront Inn***

***Brookings, Oregon***

***FINAL AGENDA***

**February 19, 2003**

- 9:00 am 1. Convene and opening remarks. John Engbring, Chair. Vice Chair is Scott Quinn, Karuk Tribe.  
Vice Chair for next meeting will be Scott Quinn, Karuk Tribe.
- 9:15 2. Business
- a. Adoption of agenda
  - b. Status of appointment letters and Charter (John Engbring)
- 9:20 3. Introductions of Congressional staff in attendance
- 9:40 4. Brief review of last meeting actions/general correspondence/program update (Laurie Simons)
- 10:00 5. Brief Updates and Announcements
- a. Update on State recovery process (Neil Manji)
  - b. Update on NOAA recovery planning (Irma Lagomarsino)
  - c. Status of green sturgeon and Pacific lamprey petitions (Irma Lagomarsino and John Engbring)
- 10:20 6. Updates on anadromous fishery restoration efforts (all members who wish to contribute)
- 11:20 7. Progress of Klamath Basin Federal Working Group (Sue Ellen Wooldridge, Department of the Interior)
- 12:20 8. Public Comment
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 9. Presentation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Program Strategic Vision (MaryEllen Mueller, California/Nevada Office, Fish and Wildlife Service)
- 2:00 10. Report from Klamath Watershed Coordination Group
- Klamath Basin Compact Commission (Alice Kilham)
  - Upper Klamath Basin Working Group (Jim Carpenter)
  - Trinity Management Council (Mike Orcutt)
- 2:30 11. Discussion of potential joint meeting with Trinity Management Council
- 2:45 12. Barnes Ranch Water Storage Project/Upper Klamath Lake (Rich McIntyre, American Land Conservancy and Klamath Upper Basin Working Group)
- 3:00 13. Results of investigations on the 2002 salmon mortality event (George Guillen, FWS and Neil Manji, CDFG)

## Attachment 2

- 3:30 14. Status of Klamath River anadromous fisheries and population trends (Neil Manji, CDFG)
- 4:00 15. Report on the California Department of Fish and Game project selection process and how it relates to the Task Force process (Neil Manji, CDFG)
- 4:45 16. Public Comment
- 5:00 Recess
- 5:00-7:00pm Social Hour - Join us in the Lounge across the street in the Smuggler's Cove restaurant.

### **February 20, 2003**

- 8:00 17. Task Force review of recommendations from Mid-term Evaluation Oversight Committee (Dave Hillemeier)
- 9:00 18. Discussion of Budget and suggestion from Budget Committee member (Phil Detrich and Dave Bitts)
- 9:30 19. Planning for 2003 Klamath Project Operations and the Conservation Implementation Program (Dave Sabo, Bureau of Reclamation)
- 10:30 20. Status of Klamath Hydropower Relicensing (Todd Olson, PacifiCorp)
- 11:00 21. Relation between upslope land management and base flow (Robbie Van de Water, Klamath National Forest)
- 11:30 22. Report from Technical Work Group (Dan Gale)
- 12:00 23. Public Comment
- 12:15 24. Recap and summary of assignments and motions. Identify agenda to include in the next meeting. (John Engbring)
- 12:20 25. Future meetings are in Eureka, June 18-19, 2003, and in Yreka, October 22-23, 2003.
- Adjourn

**KLAMATH RIVER BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE MEETING**

***February 19-20, 2003  
Best Western Beachfront Inn  
Brookings, Oregon***

***LIST OF HANDOUTS\****

Agendum 2	Task Force Charter
Agendum 4	Letter to Secretary Gale Norton from the Task Force and Upper Klamath Basin Working Group, regarding joint resolution, dated October 24, 2002.
Agendum 4	Letter to Secretary Gale Norton from John Engbring regarding the Salmon Die-off on the Klamath River, California, dated December 27, 2002.
Agendum 4	Task Force Unspent and Incomplete Projects 3-Years Old and Older as of February 18, 2003.
Agendum 5a	California Endangered Species Act, Listing of Coho Salmon in California.
Agendum 6	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Restoration Projects in the Klamath River Basin For Fiscal Year 2002.
Agendum 9	Conserving America's Fisheries, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fisheries Program Vision for the Future, dated December 2002.
Agendum 9	List of Questions - What information does the FWS need from its Partners and Stakeholders for developing Regional Step-down Plans?
Agendum 12	Fact Sheet - Swan Valley: An Overview, by American Land Conservancy.
Agendum 13	Chronology of Significant Events During and After the 2002 Klamath River Fish Kill.
Agendum 13	Letter to Dave Sabo from the Department of Fish and Game, regarding Transmittal of Report "September 2002 Klamath River Fish Kill: Preliminary Analysis of Contributing Factors", dated January 3, 2003.
Agendum 14	Klamath River Basin Fall Chinook Salmon Spawner Escapement, In-river Harvest and Run-size Estimates, 2000-2002, from California Department of Fish & Game.
Agendum 15	California Department of Fish & Game Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, 2002/2003 Klamath Basin Projects.
Agendum 17	Revision of the Long Range Plan Review of Actions Taken Prior to October 11, 2001.

Agendum 17	Excerpts from the Mid-Term Evaluation and Long Range Plan.
Agendum 18	Klamath River Basin Conservation Area Restoration Program Cost Accounting.
Agendum 18	Klamath River Basin Conservation Area Restoration Program Expenses for Fiscal Year 2002, Final November 2002.
Agendum 18	Klamath River Basin Conservation Area Restoration Program Projected Expenses for Fiscal Year 2003, Draft November 2002.
Agendum 18	Klamath River Basin Conservation Area Restoration Program Project Expenses for Fiscal Year 2004, Draft February 2003.
Agendum 18	Klamath River Basin Conservation Area Restoration Program Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2002 - Fiscal Year 2004.
Agendum 18	Draft Request for Proposals for Fiscal Year 2004.
Agendum 18	Proposed Priority and Funding Responsibility for Fishery Action Items. SB1086 Management Plan.
Agendum 22	Technical Work Group Report to the Task Force for February 20, 2003 meeting.
Agendum 22	Limiting Factors for Spring Chinook - Spawning Life Stage.
Informational	Task Force Membership List, dated February 12, 2003.
Informational	Letter to Secretary Gale Norton from Pacific Fishery Management Council, regarding the effects of reduced flows on the anadromous salmonid fish populations of the Klamath River, dated December 4, 2002.
Informational	News from the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council

\*For copies of handouts, please contact the Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office.



# KLAMATH RIVER BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE MEETING

*February 19-20, 2003  
Best Western Beachfront Inn*

*Brookings, Oregon*

## ***LIST OF ATTENDEES***

The following individuals attended the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force meeting in Brookings, Oregon on the dates indicated:

### **February 19, 2003**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Paul Partello	KMZ
Ronnie Pierce	Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish & Water Commission
Petey Brucker	Salmon River Restoration Council, Technical Work Group, Chair
Michael Belchik	Yurok Tribal Fisheries
Rich McIntyre	American Land Conservancy
Toby Freeman	PacifiCorp
Todd Olson	PacifiCorp
Dave Sabo	Bureau of Reclamation
Nat Pennington	Salmon River Restoration Council
Ron Reed	Karuk Traditional Fishermen
Sandi Tripp	Karuk Tribe
Ray Williams	The Klamath River
Luere LaBonte	Curry County
Merv George Jr.	Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Boyd Ferris	Hoopa Tribal Council
Curt Mullis	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Roger L. Thompson	Brookings Harbor
Sara Borok	California Dept. of Fish & Game
Dan Keppen	Klamath Water Users Association
George Guillen	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Jeff Mitchell	Klamath Tribes, Klamath Inter-Tribal Fish & Water Commission
Dave Solem	Klamath Irrigation District
Pete Aspinwall	Interested Party
Helen Birss	Department of Fish & Game
Jim S. Welter	Port of Brookings Harbor
Donald Allison	Pilot Newspaper
Don Reck	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Earl Danosky	Tulelake Irrigation District
Jim & Stephanie Carpenter	Upper Klamath Basin Working Group
Jim Waldvogel	Technical Work Group
Alice Kilham	Klamath Compact Commission
Bill Ferry	Rural Resources Alliance
Sandra Lowry	Citizen
Mary Ellen Muller	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Felice Pace	Klamath Forest Alliance
Bill Bennett	California Dept. of Water Resources
Joe Hobbs	Klamath Tribes
Elwood Miller	Klamath Tribes
Glen Spain	Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association
Sue Ellen Wooldridge	U.S. Department of the Interior
Chris Moudry	Interested Party
Tim McKay	Northcoast Environmental Center
Paul Kirk	Interested Party
Mike Rode	California Dept. of Fish & Game
Toz Soto	Karuk Tribe

**February 20, 2003**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Paul Kirk	Interested Party
Dave Sabo	Bureau of Reclamation
Alice Kilham	Klamath Compact Commission
Petey Brucker	Salmon River Restoration Council, Technical Work Group, Chair
Boyd Ferris	Hoopa Tribal Council
Toz Soto	Karuk Tribe
Dean McBroom	Shasta Tribe
Loren McCovey	Yurok Tribe and Klamath Guides & Fishermen
Jim Carpenter	Upper Klamath Basin Working Group
Jeff Mitchell	Klamath Tribes, Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish & Water Commission
Felice Pace	Klamath Forest Alliance
Anthony West	Klamath Tribes
Don Reck	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Doug Tedrick	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Joe Hobbs	Klamath Tribes
Elwood Miller	Klamath Tribes
Joseph Jarnaghan	Hoopa Valley Tribe
Mike Rode	California Dept. of Fish & Game
Sandra Lowry	Interested Party
Dave Solem	Klamath Irrigation District
Curt Mullis	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Toby Freeman	PacifiCorp
Todd Olson	PacifiCorp
Glen Spain	Pacific Coast Federation Fishermen's Association
Bill Bennett	California Department of Water Resources
Brian Bullock	Port of Brookings Harbor
Merv George Jr.	Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Joe Hobbs	Klamath Tribes
Frank Williams	STEP

**KLAMATH RIVER BASIN FISHERIES TASK FORCE MEETING**

*February 19-20, 2003  
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***MOTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS***

**Motions:**

**Agendum 2**

Motion by Keith Wilkinson to adopt the amended agenda.  
Seconded by Jim DePree.  
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Keith Wilkinson to approve the amendments to the charter.  
Seconded by Dave Bitts.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**Agendum 12**

Motion by Keith Wilkinson to draft letter to Secretary of Interior supporting the Barnes Project with language mentioning the need to avoid adverse effects to water quality and to promote habitat restoration. This letter will be reviewed by Task Force members.  
Seconded by Dave Bitts.  
Motion Passed unanimously.

**Agendum 18**

Motion by Steve West to accept the 2004 budget as recommended by Phil Detrich and as shown on the Budget Allocations handout.  
Seconded by Keith Wilkinson.  
Motion Passed unanimously.

**Agendum 19**

Motion by Dave Bitts that the Task Force draft a letter to the Secretary of the Interior. The letter would point out the likelihood of another dry year, and that disasters occurred in each of the last two years. The Task Force would like the Secretary of Interior to prevent these disasters by implementing solutions such as increasing water storage or other measures. This letter will be reviewed by Task Force members.  
Seconded by Steve West.  
Motion Passed unanimously.

**Agendum 22**

Motion by Steve West to draft letter to Secretary of Interior that funding for Jobs in the Woods be inserted back into the Federal Budget for 2004.  
Seconded by Chuck Blackburn.  
Motion Passed unanimously.

## **Assignments:**

### **Agendum 2**

Requests for new appointment letters will be sent out to all members. Letters will state that those sitting will continue until replaced, as stated in the Charter.

### **Agendum 6**

Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office will draft a letter from Task Force to Director of Fish and Game proposing a process whereby Technical Work Group would review State restoration proposals. Yreka will send the draft to Helen Birss and Neil Manji for review.

### **Agendum 10**

Neil Manji and Dave Hillemeier were appointed to serve as Task Force representatives on the Klamath Basin Coordination group. Other interested parties may also serve.

### **Agendum 18**

Staff will send out the Request for Proposals as provided in the handout with one change. The last 2 sentences on page one will be deleted.

Staff will include the following items for discussion at the June Task Force meeting:

1. Should the Task Force perform a similar assessment of projects as that performed in the Sacramento basin with the 1086 plan?
2. Should the Task Force look at all projects in the basin and attempt coordination?

### **Agendum 22**

Staff will send a letter to the National Research Council about the Technical Work Group and their expertise in salmon issues, offering their assistance with the Klamath Basin review. This letter will be on a fast track and not subject to Task Force review.

Technical Work Group will discuss mainstem issues at June Task Force meeting.

Staff will send a letter to sub-basin groups that funding requests over \$25,000 for planning and coordination need to be justified in a separate proposal.